

We all have a stake in keeping Utah's water clean

Adopt-A-Waterbody

Help give something back to nature

Some adopting groups are interested in cleaning up trash or conducting restoration work such as planting or trail building. Other groups want to monitor water quality or educate their friends and neighbors about water quality.

Adopt-A-Waterbody Program Introduction

Adopt-A-Waterbody (AAW) is an innovative program by three state government agencies to coordinate the efforts of a wide variety of volunteer groups working throughout the state with one common purpose: to protect and enhance the waters of the State of Utah. Portions of rivers, lakes, wetlands and even ground water aquifers can be

adopted.

The Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Quality; The Utah Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife Resources; and the Utah Department of Agriculture sponsor and administer this informal water stewardship and education program.

Planning for A Successful Adoption

adopted small sections of waterways near their homes or organizations. Weber County, the county has adopted the public waterways in that area and coordinates adoptions.

What, Where to Adopt

Be Creative! Your group may want to adopt a portion of a pond, lake, reservoir, stream, river, ground water aquifer or wetland. Most groups pick a water resource near their neighborhood or organization. Most groups are merely interested in community service. *Other groups have specific interests such as sports fishery enhancement.

What Does Adoption Involve?

Adoption means making a commitment to become an active steward for a specific resource area. Groups can take care of a water resource in a wide variety of ways. What your group chooses to do may depend on your group's interests and abilities. One group may only be concerned with educational/informational activities while others may organize and implement on-site natural resource restoration/pollution prevention projects. Project ideas include:

Organizing a "clean up" day, Monitoring water quality, Mapping pollution sources in the watershed, Writing educational articles, Organizing a "Clean Water Fair", Stabilizing streambanks with vegetation, Building trail or water access points, and Working on local planning and zoning issues.

Funding

Small Adopt-A-Waterbody grants may be available to local government agencies or nonprofit organizations to help supply materials for projects. **For more information about grants and a copy of the funding review criteria, indicate your interest at the bottom of the application, or call Shelly Quick at (801) 538-6516.

AAW Program Goals

The AAW program is designed to benefit Utah's water resources and be rewarding and educational for the volunteer groups involved. AAW has the following goals:

- Promote water education activities
- Encourage partnerships involving private groups and public agencies
- Advocate pollution prevention of surface and ground water resources through personal stewardship projects

- Acknowledge the water quality education/improvement efforts of individuals and groups.

Who Can Adopt?

Any individual or group can adopt a public surface or ground water resource in the state. Some of the types of groups already involved in the Utah AAW program include individuals; businesses; school classes; scouting troops; local governments; and civic, environmental and nonprofit organizations.

Several individuals and groups have

Many science teachers like to use water quality monitoring including macroinvertebrate sampling as good hands-on lessons. These outings are a good change from the classroom.

Adopt-A-Waterbody Application

NAME OF ADOPTING ORGANIZATION:

**WHAT NAME DO YOU WANT PRINTED ON
YOUR CERTIFICATE?**

CONTACT PERSON/TITLE:

WATERBODY LOCATION:

ADDRESS:

WATERBODY TYPE: (Check One)

Lake _____	Reservoir _____
Pond _____	Wetland _____
River _____	Aquifer _____

PHONE:

Day: _____
Night: _____

PROJECT TYPE: (Check all that apply)

Education _____	Clean Up _____
Restoration _____	Monitoring _____
Other _____	

PROJECT SUMMARY: (Please provide (1) a detailed description of the project, (2) the need for the project, (3) special needs or materials for the project, (4) time line for completion.)

*If your interest is in sport fishery habitat restoration or education, please contact Utah Division of Wildlife Resources for an application. Call the Aquatic Education Coordinator at (801) 538-4717.

☐ ** Please check here if you are interested in more information about AAW grants.

**Utah Adopt-A-Waterbody
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